WE CLAIM:

1. A method of processing refunds online comprising the steps of:

a purchaser making a purchase;

assigning identifying information to said purchase;

said purchaser seeking a refund for said purchase associated with said identifying information;

said step of seeking said refund further comprising the steps of:

said purchaser logging on to an online refund system;

said purchaser providing to said online refund system said identifying information;

said online refund system verifying said refund request; and

said online refund system providing a refund for said purchase to said purchaser.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said purchase is made online.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said identifying information includes a tracking number.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein said identifying information further includes a transaction number.

5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of said purchaser providing to said online refund system information concerning said purchaser, including a user ID and a password.

6. The method of Claim 3 wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of determining whether an undue period of time has passed from said purchase.

7. The method of Claim 3 wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of determining whether there has been a scan event associated with said postage.

8. The method of Claim 3 wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of queuing said request for a period of time, and determining that no scan event occurs during said period of time, prior to issuing a refund.

9. The method of Claim 8 wherein said period of time is seven days.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of determining whether there has been a prior refund request associated with said purchase.

11. The method of Claim 3 wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of determining whether said purchase for which a refund has been sought has previously been voided.

12. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of tracking an identity of a purchaser who submits a plurality of improper refund requests.

13. The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of suspending purchase privileges of said purchaser who submits a plurality of improper refund requests.

14. The method of Claim 12 further comprising the step of report said identity of said purchaser who submits a plurality of improper refund requests.

15. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of permitting a purchaser who has received a rejection of a refund request to appeal said rejection.

16. A method of processing refunds online comprising the steps of:

accepting a purchase from a purchaser;

wherein said purchase is of postage and wherein said purchase is evidenced by identifying information;

accepting a refund request from said purchaser for said purchase associated with said identifying information;

said step of accepting said refund request further comprising the steps of permitting said purchaser to:

        log on to an online refund system;

        provide to said online refund system information concerning said purchaser, including a user ID and a password; and

        provide to said online refund system said identifying information concerning said purchase;

verifying said refund request;

wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of determining whether there has been a scan event associated with said postage;

wherein said step of verifying said refund request further includes the step of determining whether there has been a prior refund request associated with said purchase; and

said online refund system providing a refund for said purchase to said purchaser.

17. The method of Claim 16 wherein said identifying information includes a tracking number.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein said identifying information further includes a transaction number.

19. The method of Claim 16 wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of determining whether an undue period of time has passed from said purchase.

20. The method of Claim 16 wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of queuing said request for a period of time, and determining that no scan event occurs during said period of time, prior to issuing a refund.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said period of time is seven days.

22. The method of Claim 16 wherein said step of verifying said refund request includes the step of determining whether said purchase for which a refund has been sought has previously been voided.

23. The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of tracking an identity of a purchaser who submits a plurality of improper refund requests.

24. The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of suspending purchase privileges of said purchaser who submits a plurality of improper refund requests.